

Amendments to the Claims:

Applicants hereby amend claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-9, 11-13 and 16-17, and cancel claim 7 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A device for secure access to digital media contents, the device comprising:

an access means for accessing digital media contents from a data source, the access means located in a single housing; [[and]]

an authentication means for controlling access to the digital media contents, the authentication means located in the single housing; and a reader for authenticating a user,
~~the authentication being performed by checking some authentication data, the device further comprising~~

an internal communication path between the access means and the reader, the internal communication path being not directly accessible from outside the device.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the device only has a single electrical interface for connection to a host.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein the single electrical interface represents at least two logical interfaces[[,]] including a first logical interface being compatible to the digital media and a second logical interface being compatible to [[the]] authentication data used by the authentication means.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the single electrical interface is designed according to one of the following standards: USB, SCSI, Firewire, PCMCIA, WiFi, Bluetooth, HyperLAN.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the access means and the authentication means ~~reader~~ share a common processing unit.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the access means and the authentication means ~~reader~~ use different processing units, the communication path including a communication channel between the processing units.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the authentication means includes ~~reader is a~~ smart card reader capable of accessing a key stored on a smart card.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The device according to claim 8, further comprising means for entering a PIN code and ~~is capable of~~ releasing the key after a PIN code match is determined.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The device according to claim 8, wherein the smart card containing the key is interfaced to the smart card reader through one of the following interfaces: ISO 7816, 12C, Contactless Smart Card Interface.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The device according to claim 8, wherein the smart card is embedded inside the authentication means ~~reader~~.

Claim 12 (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the authentication means ~~reader is capable of~~ includes means for retrieving biometric information from the user.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The device according to claim 12, wherein the means for retrieving biometric information ~~reader includes~~ one of the following: a fingerprint sensor, an iris recognition device means, a face recognition device means, a voice recognition device means.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the data source is one of the following: a hard disk, a removable disk, a CD, a DVD, a flash memory embedded inside the device, a removable flash memory.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the access means includes a modem capable of retrieving data from a remote network.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the access means and the reader~~ the single housing is a module that is insertable ~~which can be inserted into and removable~~ removed from the device.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the access means and the authentication means ~~reader~~ is a system-on-chip (SOC) or a single chip system.

Claim 18 (withdrawn) A virtual multi-interface driver for supporting a device having at least two device functions and being connectable to a host via a single electrical interface, the virtual multi-interface driver reporting at least two logical interfaces to a system software of the host, the logical interfaces including at least one virtual interface in addition to the single electrical interface.

Claim 19 (withdrawn) The virtual multi-interface driver according to claim 18, the virtual multi-interface driver being capable of switching between the two logical interfaces in response to a switch command.

Claim 20 (withdrawn) The virtual multi-interface driver according to claim 18, the virtual multi-interface driver being capable of creating a virtual user authentication interface.

Claim 21 (withdrawn) The virtual multi-interface driver according to claim 18, the virtual multi-interface driver being capable of converting commands received from an operating system of the host into a format compatible with the single electrical interface.

Claim 22 (withdrawn) The virtual multi-interface driver according to claim 21, the virtual multi-interface driver being capable of converting commands from a smart card command format into an SCSI command format.

Claim 23 (withdrawn) The virtual multi-interface driver according to claim 18, the virtual multi-interface driver being capable of reporting $n-1$ virtual interfaces to a system software of the host, with n being the number of device functions.

Claim 24 (withdrawn) A system for secure access to digital media contents, the system comprising

a host,

a device comprising an access means for accessing digital media contents from a data source and a reader for authenticating a user, the authentication being performed by checking some authentication data, the device further comprising an internal communication path between the access means and the reader, the communication path being not directly accessible from outside the device, and

a virtual multi-interface driver for supporting a device having at least two device functions and being connectable to the host via a single electrical interface, the virtual multi-interface driver reporting at least two logical interfaces to a system software of the host, the logical interfaces including at least one virtual interface in addition to the single electrical interface.

Claim 25 (withdrawn) The system according to claim 24, wherein the device is connected to the host via a single electrical interface provided on the device, thus only a single data channel being provided for communication between the device and the host.

Claim 26 (withdrawn) The system according to claim 24, wherein the virtual multi-interface driver acts as an interface between

drivers of the access means and the reader, the drivers of the access means and the reader being loaded by a system software of the host, on the one side and the single electrical interface of the device on the other side.

Claim 27 (withdrawn) The system according to claim 25, wherein the host comprises means for entering a PIN code, the PIN code or a derivative thereof being communicated to the device via the single data channel.

Claim 28 (withdrawn) The system according to claim 24, wherein the device is accommodated inside the host.

Claim 29 (withdrawn) The system according to claim 24, wherein the device is an external unit remote from the host.

Claim 30 (withdrawn) The system according to claim 24, wherein the device comprises a plurality of device functions, the virtual multi-interface driver reporting $n-1$ virtual interfaces to a system software of the host, with n being the number of device functions provided in the device.